North Sikkim vs South Sikkim : Which One Should You Visit First?

Sikkim is a stunning Himalayan state that offers experiences so varied that you will get a totally different experience in different places within the state. Talking about different places in Sikkim, North Sikkim and South Sikkim are two places about which everyone is keen to know, but trust me, these two places give you a totally different experience altogether. If you plan a first visit to Sikkim, you must be confused between visiting North Sikkim or South Sikkim first. Both places are gorgeous in their own right.

North Sikkim: Raw, Adventurous, and High-Altitude

North Sikkim is known for its breathtaking landscapes, high altitude valleys, and snow-capped mountains. Tourist spots like Lachung, Lachen, Yumthang Valley, Gurudongmar Lake, and Zero Point make it a paradise for nature lovers and photographers alike.

However, when it comes to traveling, North Sikkim can prove more difficult compared to the others. This concerns the distance covered by roads, weather, and the height above the ground. No-frills stays, freezing temperatures, and the need for a permit are some things one needs to look forward to. Therefore, only adventurous and fit tourists are advised to visit North Sikkim.

If you are looking for snow, broad valleys, or the feeling of venturing into the extremes of the Himalayas, you would be impressed with North Sikkim. However, for new travelers, it might be overwhelming.

South Sikkim: Calm, Cultural and Easy to Explore

The whole traveling becomes easy and comfortable in South Sikkim. It is at lower altitude, the roads are smoother, and the weather is mostly pleasant. Thus, it is ideal for families, couples, senior travelers, and first-time visitors in Sikkim.

There are so many places to visit in South Sikkim including Namchi, Ravangla, Temi Tea Garden, Char Dham, Buddha Park, and Tarey Bhir. This constitutes a perfect blend of culture and spirituality with scenic views and tranquil surroundings.

South Sikkim allows one to explore without the stress of discomfort of altitude sickness or long travel hours. Accommodation is more comfortable, choices of food are wider, and sightseeing becomes easier.

So, Which one would you visit first?

If it’s your first journey to Sikkim, you can choose to go to South Sikkim. This will give you a good understanding of Sikkim’s culture, lifestyle, and landscape. Once you have

experienced mountain travel and adapted to the high altitude, you can plan to visit North Sikkim.

Nevertheless, if you're an seasoned traveler seeking snow, fun, and rugged scenery and do not have much time in hand, North Sikkim might just be worth the challenge.